

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08425 052133Z  
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO WHITE HOUSE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3979

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8425

NODIS

FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, US, EG, IS  
SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF: STATE 169132

1. IMPRESSED AS I NOW AM WITH THE VIRTUES OF THE  
SIMPLE DECLARATIVE SENTENCE, I WILL ATTEMPT TO ASSESS  
YOUR TRIP TO ISRAEL IN TRUMANESQUE FASHION.
2. THE ONLY CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT WAS NAILING DOWN THE  
LONDON MEETING. WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED THAT  
WITHOUT YOU, BUT IT MIGHT WELL HAVE UNRAVELED HAD YOU  
NOT BEEN HERE. YOU ARRIVED IN ISRAEL TO CONFRONT A  
PSYCHOLOGICAL MOOD OF INCREASING PARANOIA ABOUT U.S.  
INTENTIONS. YOU LEFT HAVING SUCCEEDED TEMPORARILY IN  
SQUELCHING THE WORST OF THE PARANOIA. BUT YOUR IMPACT  
ON THE NATIONAL PSYCHE WILL ENDURE ONLY BRIEFLY UNLESS  
SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS FROM WASHINGTON IN THE WEEKS AHEAD  
ARE MORE CAREFULLY TAILORED TO THE NEW-FOUND ISRAELI  
AFFECTION FOR "EVENHANDEDNESS" IN LADLING OUT CRITICISM.

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3. YOUR SPEECH WAS AN ELOQUENT SUCCESS. IT SUCCEEDED  
IN STATING BETTER THAN ANY PREVIOUS HIGH-LEVEL U.S.  
EFFORT THE ENDURING NATURE OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO  
ISRAEL IN WAYS WHICH WERE SENSITIVE TO ISRAELI CONCERNS.  
IT ALSO, HOWEVER, PUT CLEARLY IF DIPLOMATICALLY ON THE  
RECORD HERE BEFORE MOST OF THE KEY POLITICAL LEADERS OUR VIEW OF THE  
ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS IF PEACE IS TO BE WON.

THEY DID NOT LIKE THOSE SECTIONS OF YOUR SPEECH, BUT NEARLY EVERYONE AGREES THAT THEY WERE BOTH CLEAR AND SYMPATHETICALLY STATED. SINCE NO ONE EXPECTED YOU TO ANNOUNCE A CHANGE OF U.S. POLICY, THE SPEECH DID NOT SURPRISE. BUT TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT DID REASSURE.

4. YOU MADE NO HEADWAY IN CONVINCING BEGIN OR HIS COLLEAGUES THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT APPROACH TO PEACEMAKING AND THAT THEY DO NOT.

5. I BELIEVE YOU WENT AWAY WITH AN EVEN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIVISIVE ELEMENTS CURRENTLY TROUBLING U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS THAN WHEN YOU ARRIVED.

6. YOUR SYMBOLIC PUBLIC APPEARANCES AT SDE BOKER, BEN GURION UNIVERSITY, THE WESTERN WALL, SHAARE ZADEK HOSPITAL, YAD VASHEM, THE ISRAEL-AMERICA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY RECEPTION WITH ME AND THE KNESSET ITSELF ALL HIT EXACTLY THE RIGHT NOTE. THE WESTERN WALL VISIT TURNED OUT AS WELL AS WE COULD HOPE, AND THE COMPROMISE WITH TEDDY PROVED TO BE BOTH WORKABLE AND POLITICALLY EFFECTIVE.

7. YOUR PRIVATE MEETINGS HELPED CONSIDERABLY TO GET ACROSS THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS TO THE KEY INDIVIDUALS  
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INVOLVED. THEY ALSO HELPED, I THINK, YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL COMPLEXITY WE FACE HERE, AND MOST OF ALL GAVE YOU SOME NEW INSIGHTS THROUGH OTHERS' EYES OF THE CENTRALITY OF THE BEGIN PHENOMENON.

8. THE PRESS DID NOT LAY A GLOVE ON YOU. THEY HAVE GIVEN YOUR VISIT REMARKABLY POSITIVE COVERAGE OVERALL IN LIGHT OF THE SOUR MOOD WITH WHICH THEY HERALDED YOUR ARRIVAL.

9. TO SUM UP. YOU HELPED GET THE PEACE NEGOTIATING PROCESS MOVING SLOWLY FORWARD AGAIN INSTEAD OF BACKWARDS; YOU MADE AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IMPACT AS AN INDIVIDUAL ON ALL ISRAELIS, EVEN THOSE MOST BITTERLY OPPOSED TO OUR CURRENT POLICIES; YOU ARRESTED AND MOMENTARILY REVERSED THE SLIDE IN PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD ACUTE PARANOIA; AND YOU REGAINED FOR US SOME LOST CONFIDENCE FROM BEGIN BY SMILING AT HIM INSTEAD OF FROWNING. IN SHORT, IT WAS WORTHWHILE YOUR COMING. AND IF YOU WANTED TO RUN FOR OFFICE HERE, YOU WOULD GIVE EVEN TEDDY A GOOD RUN FOR HIS MONEY.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VICE PRESIDENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, TRAVEL REPORTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, CAT-B  
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**Draft Date:** 05 jul 1978  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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